

## ABSTRACT

The present invention is a metal block for use in a high throughput RNA laboratory comprising a plurality of wells, each well having an open cylindrical upper end and a closed  
5 conical lower end. Each well is design to accommodate a biological sample receptacle. The receptacle has substantially the same shape as the well, thereby maintaining the temperature of a biological sample in the receptacle during sample set up and prior to polymerase chain reaction. Use of the metal block in an automated liquid handling device provides an improvement to liquid handling systems currently available.

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